



The



UNITED STATES NAVAL TRAINING CENTER

GREAT LAKES, ILLINOIS

COMPANY 264

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THE



INTRODUCTION

The keel is the first part of a ship to be constructed. "Laying the keel," a highlight in shipbuilding, is the first step in transforming a set of plans and a body of materials into an integrated, useful structure. The keel is the basic unit of a ship's hull, serving as a foundation while the ship is being built and giving strength and support to the finished product.

Recruit training might be called the keel of a man's career in the Navy. Just as laying the keel is the first step in transforming materials into a finished ship, so recruit training transforms the civilian into the Bluejacket. Recruit training serves as a foundation for a man's Naval career in the same sense that the keel serves as a foundation for the ship. And as the keel gives strength and support to the finished ship, the skills a recruit learns during his first few weeks in the Navy will support him throughout his Naval career.



THE



**UNITED STATES
NAVAL TRAINING CENTER**

GREAT LAKES, ILLINOIS



CAPTAIN J. S. KEATING, USN
Commander
Naval Training Center



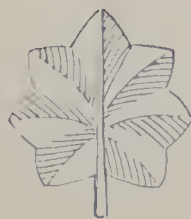
CAPTAIN J. E. FITZGIBBON, USN
Assistant Commander
Naval Training Center



CAPTAIN K. L. NUTTING, USN
Commanding Officer
Recruit Training Command



COMMANDER JAMES R. HANSEN, USN
Executive Officer
Recruit Training Command





Main entrance to the United States Naval Training Center at Great Lakes, Illinois.

HISTORY



THE NAVAL TRAINING CENTER, Great Lakes, Illinois, had its start in 1904 when a board appointed by President Theodore Roosevelt selected two adjoining farms north of Lake Bluff, Illinois, as a site for a naval training station.

The Merchants' Club of Chicago purchased the farms and presented them as a gift to the government from the people of Chicago. Six years of construction followed,

and on July 1, 1911, the Station was commissioned. Four months later it was dedicated as a Station by President William Howard Taft. At that time it covered 172 acres and had a capacity of 1,500 men.

The Station's size remained constant until the beginning of the first World War, when a wartime expansion program took place. By Armistice Day, 1918, the Station had expanded to 1,200 acres and had 45,000 men undergoing training. A quarter of a million men were trained at Great Lakes during World War I.

During the period between wars the Station's activity was greatly decreased. It was completely closed down as a training activity from June 30, 1933, to July 29, 1935. When President Roosevelt proclaimed a national emergency on September 9, 1939, the total population at Great Lakes was less than 1,000.

July 26, 1940, marked the beginning of a construction program which was to become the most extensive in Station history. Great Lakes' capacity was increased to 14,000 by the day Japan struck at Pearl Harbor.

With America's entry into World War II, a tremendous increase in construction was authorized. More than 10,000 civilians were employed in the program, expanding the Station's capacity to 82,000 men by September, 1942. In this expansion the Station's area was increased by more than a thousand acres.

At one time recruit companies held mock rifle battles on Ross Field.



At its wartime peak, Great Lakes had a crowded capacity of 100,000 men. More than a million Bluejackets, almost a third of the men in the wartime fleet, were trained at Great Lakes during the war.

On March 28, 1944, the Secretary of the Navy established the Training Station as a group command and redesignated it the U. S. Naval Training Center, Great Lakes, Illinois. The Center has four subordinate commands: the Marine Barracks, and the Administrative, Service School, and Recruit Training commands.

In peacetime Great Lakes remains the world's largest naval training center and one of our Navy's most important establishments.

Building 1 of the Center is the headquarters of the Commandant, Ninth Naval District, who has general supervision over Naval activities within the district's 13 states. One of the most important functions of the Commandant is the administration of the district's civilian Naval Reserve.

Two recent additions to the Center are the Naval Supply Depot, which is becoming one of the Navy's large centers of supply distribution, and the Navy Medical Research Unit, located in Camp Green Bay, which is conducting research in respiratory diseases and rheumatic fever.

A Naval Hospital, also located at Great Lakes, has complete facilities for maintaining the Navy's high

Seabag inspections have changed very little since this picture was taken. Recruits now sleep in bunks instead of hammocks, however, and wear their ratings on their sleeves instead of their cuffs. Company commanders no longer wear leggings.



The Naval Training Center is located on the shore of Lake Michigan.

standards of physical efficiency. Here treatment is given to patients of all the armed forces. Servicemen's dependents also are given medical treatment in the hospital's Dependents' Care Department.

Another activity of the Naval Hospital is the Hospital Corps School, where future corpsmen learn the skills needed in their work during an intensive 16-week course.

The Marine Barracks is charged with general disciplinary and security controls. This command also carries out a Marine training program. There are

A company formation in what is now the service school area. The four-wheeled field pieces were familiar equipment to recruits of years ago.



usually about 700 Marines stationed at the Center, although their number varies with the training schedule.

The Administrative Command, which occupies most of the original training station, is the nerve-center of Great Lakes. It handles the physical maintenance and overall administration of the entire Center.

The Service School Command is made up of six Navy trade schools, where Bluejackets are trained for some of the highly technical jobs in the Navy. The schools' courses range in length from 12 weeks at the Journalist School to 42 weeks at the Electronics Technicians School.

Other units in this command are the Electrician's Mates, Interior Communications, Enginemen, and Machinist's Mates schools. Equipped to provide practical experience as well as classroom instruction, the schools admit only especially selected men. Many students enter immediately after completing their recruit training.

There are two other schools at Great Lakes which train Dental Technicians and Hospital Corpsmen.

The largest of the four commands at Great Lakes is the Recruit Training Command. More than half the men entering the Navy receive their first training here. Great Lakes is also the home of the Navy's only



Building 3 is the headquarters of the Naval Training Center.

Navy Exchange is the Navy's department store.

A typical recruit barracks.





Building 1 — Headquarters
of the Ninth Naval District.



Ross Auditorium.



Building 4 houses a huge
drill hall and Catholic chapel.

Wave Recruit Training School, which is under the direction of the Recruit Training Command but located in a different part of the Center.

Men going through recruit training are prepared both physically and mentally to take their place in the Navy. They receive instruction touching on almost every phase of Navy life, from the proper method of rolling a uniform to techniques used in fighting fires.

In the course of his training the recruit receives both a basic indoctrination in the many skills he will need as a Bluejacket and a broad picture of the entire Navy,

its history, traditions, and customs.

Physical training, inoculation against diseases, and training in first aid, physical hygiene, and related subjects form another major part of the recruit training program. Coupled with wholesome food and the active and healthful environment of the training camps, this program results in a noticeable improvement in the physical condition of most recruits.

A sharp break between civilian and Navy life, recruit training is the basic element in any man's time in the Naval service. It is the keel of a career in your Navy.

TRAINING

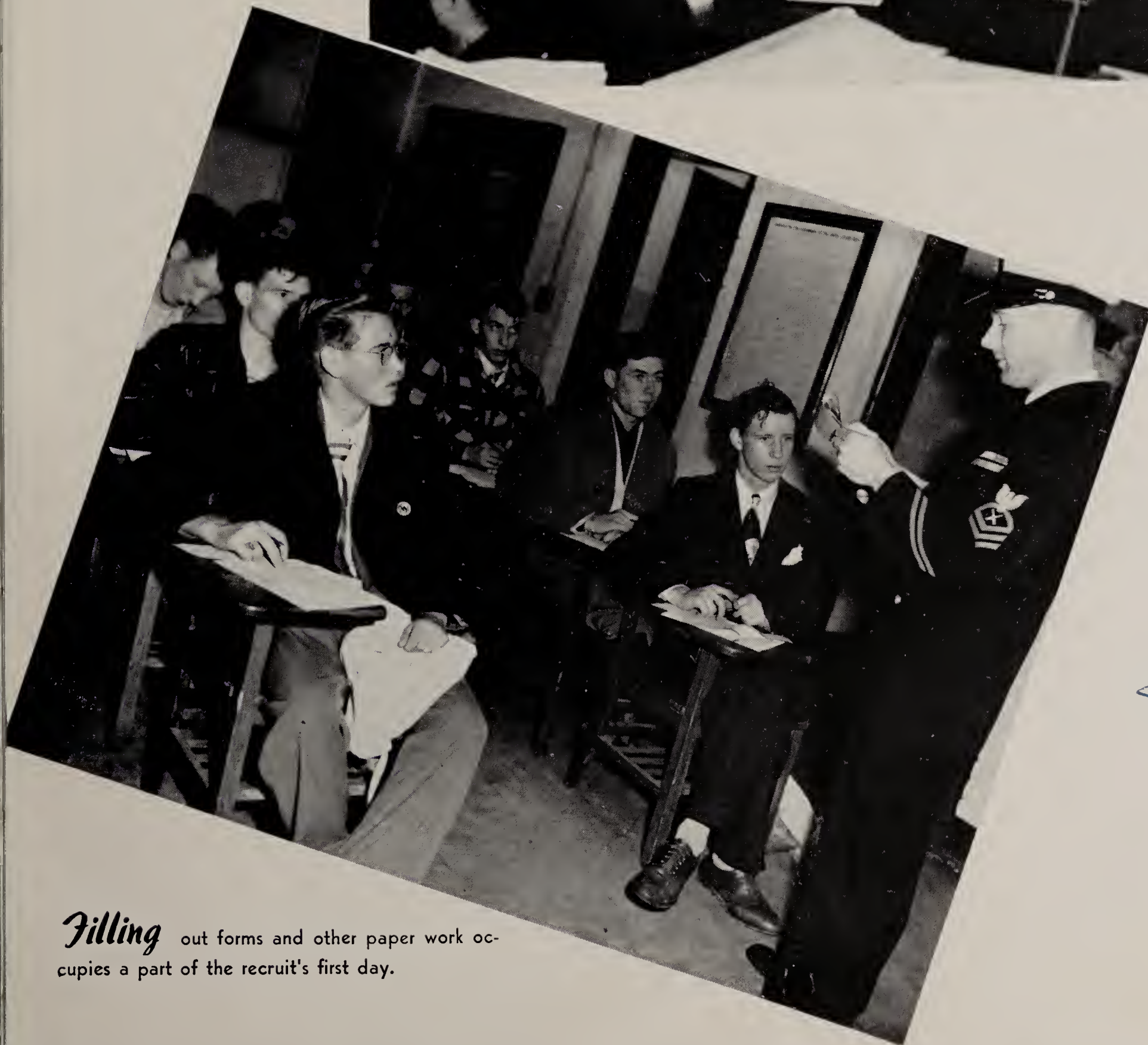
Ready to begin their Navy life, recruits enter the Receiving Unit. After haircuts, physical examinations, and inoculations, they will be issued uniforms and assigned to a company.



Main Street,
Camp Barry.



Incoming recruits
are checked in by Re-
ceiving Unit personnel.



Filling out forms and other paper work oc-
cupies a part of the recruit's first day.



The Receiving Unit

is the home of the regulation recruit haircut. Efficient Navy barbers crop hundreds of pounds of hair yearly from the heads of protesting recruits.

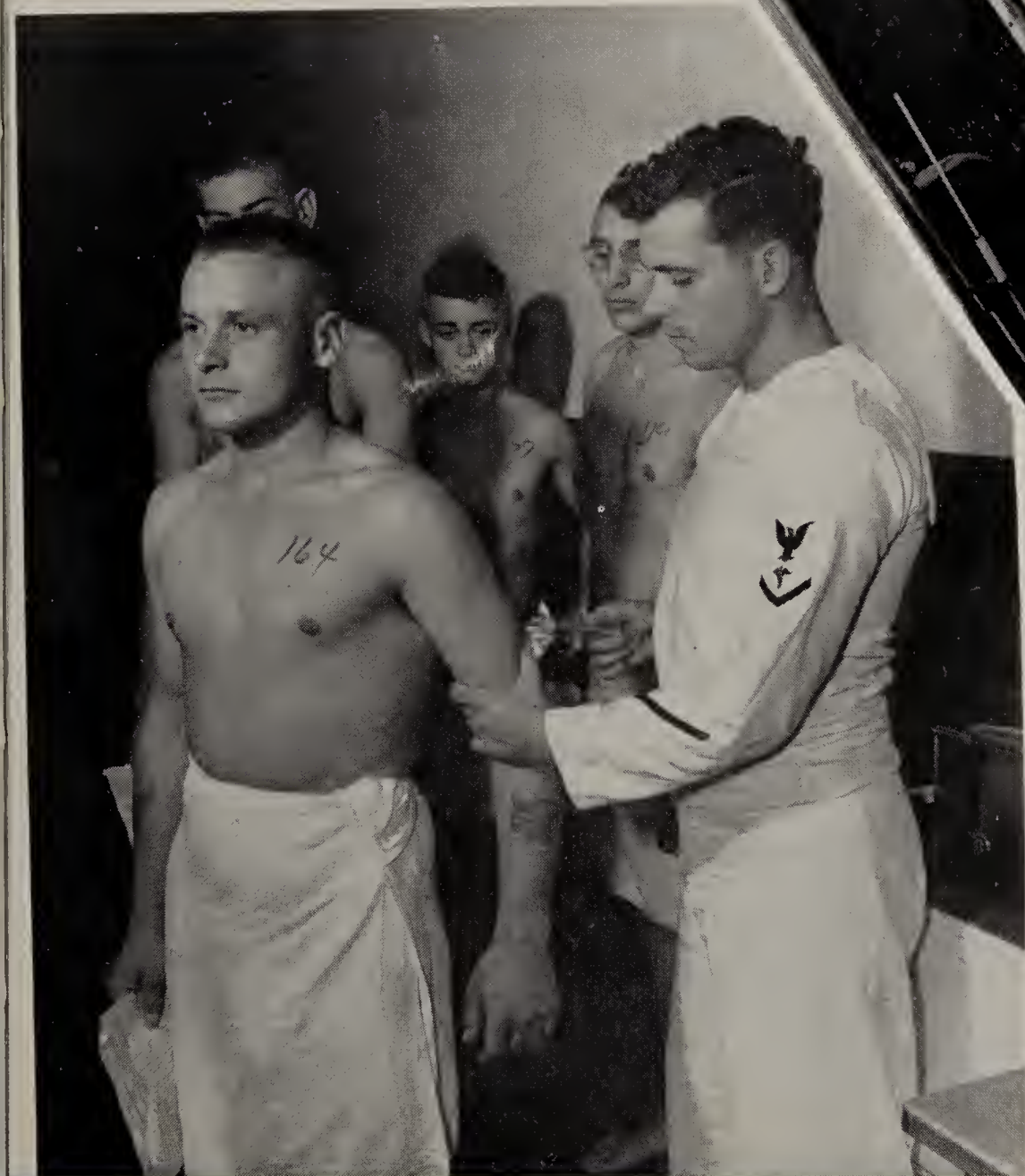


Cleanliness is stressed from the beginning. These men are getting ready for dental examinations. Any needed dental work will be done while they are in training.

A chest X-ray is made of each incoming recruit as part of the rigid physical examination.



Unpopular but necessary are the inoculations. Frequently-heard stories about the shot with the square needle turn out to be fictitious.





Recruit meets bell-bottom trousers.



Be sure those marching shoes fit —you'll be covering a lot of ground in them for the rest of the training.

These uniforms
will look better after
the tailors have worked
them over.



All items of personal gear
are stenciled with the owner's
name.





Recruits go on to advanced stages of training as they leave the Receiving Unit and move into their permanent barracks.

Entrance to Camps Dewey, Downes, and Porter.



The recreation building in Camp Moffett.





Wholesome meals are served cafeteria style in large mess halls. Most recruits gain weight while in training.



Recruit petty officers, appointed by the company commander, are responsible for many of the company's functions.

Mail call is always well attended.



These men are already looking forward to their first liberty.





Some common ways of spending off-duty time.





The company commander plays a major role in recruit training. A chief petty officer or first class petty officer with years of experience as a Navy man, he is charged with indoctrinating his company in the many phases of Navy life not covered in classroom lectures. This includes everything from making out a pay "chit" to scrubbing and rolling clothes.

The company commander tells a sea story.

Recruits learn the proper way to lash up a seabag.



Bull session.





The company commander helps his men to attain the Navy's traditional high standards of appearance.



Frequent field days keep the barracks in good shape.



Newly formed recruit companies are welcomed to the training center by an official of the Recruit Training Command.





With space aboard ship at a premium, the recruit must learn to keep his clothing clean and properly rolled. Several seabag inspections are held during the training period.



Recruit training involves a lot of classroom instruction. Charts, models, and the Bluejackets' Manual help illustrate what the instructor says.





Military drill goes on throughout the training period.



The manual of arms is awkward at first, but it will improve.



A company marches off the drill field after morning quarters.

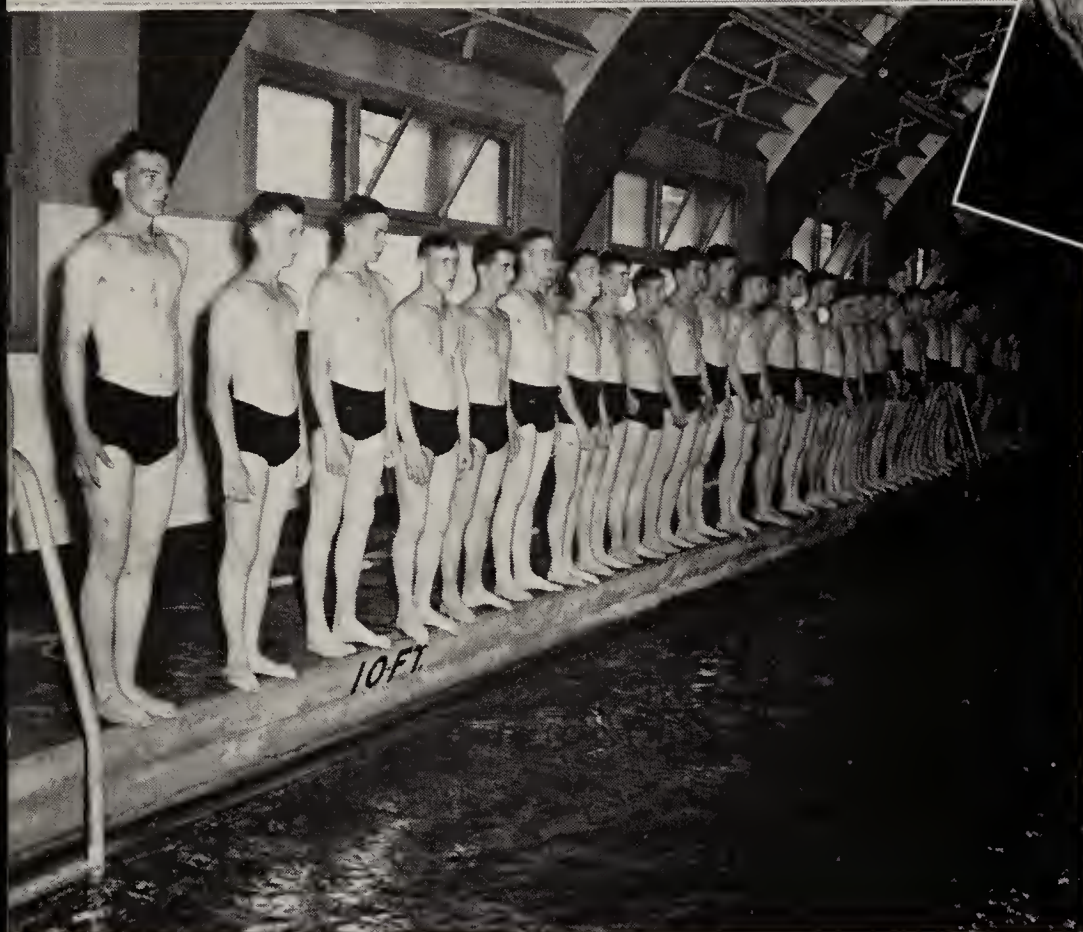
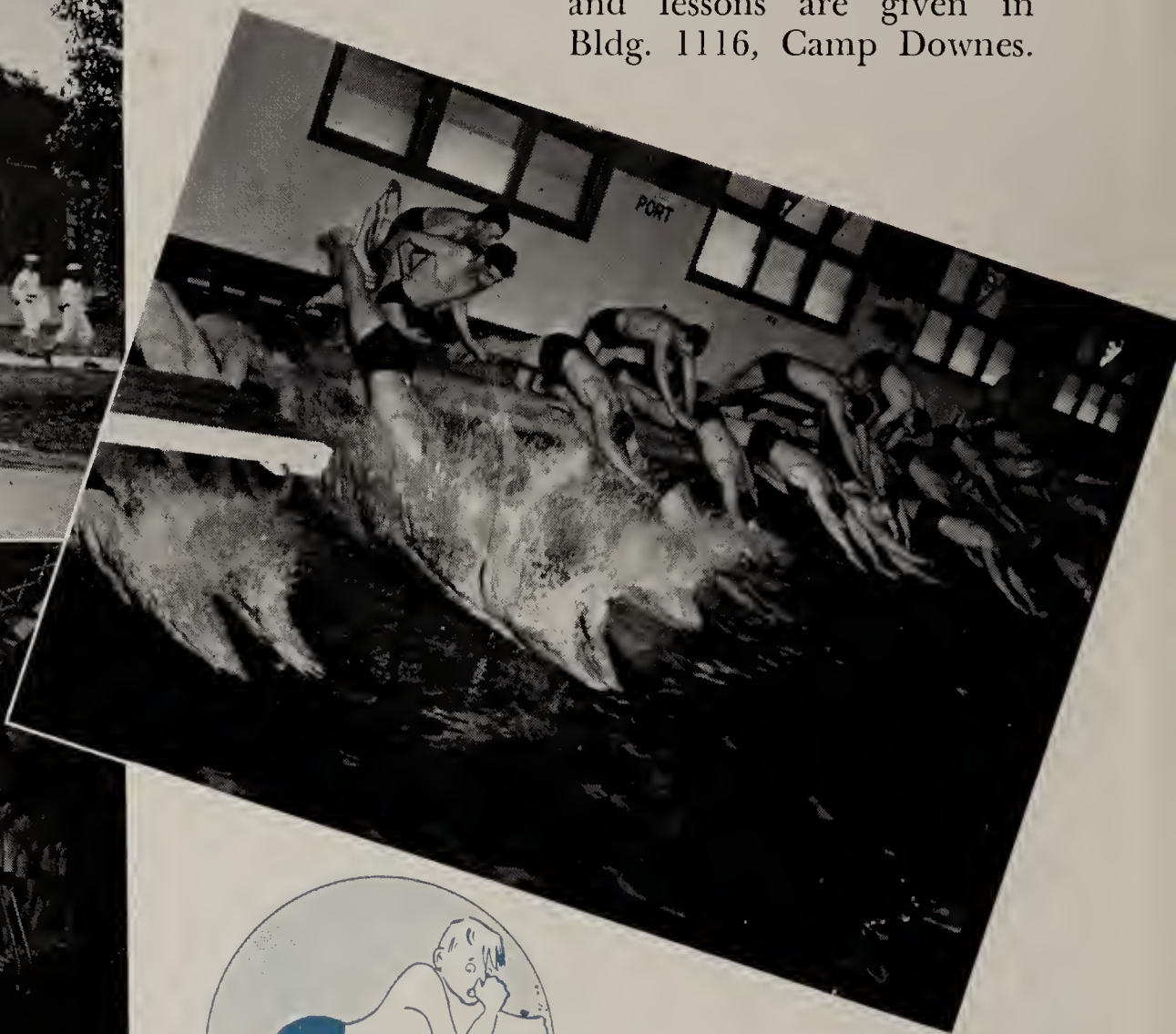
White uniforms are worn in the summer —



---and blues with pea-coats in the winter.



Swimming ability is tested
and lessons are given in
Bldg. 1116, Camp Downes.

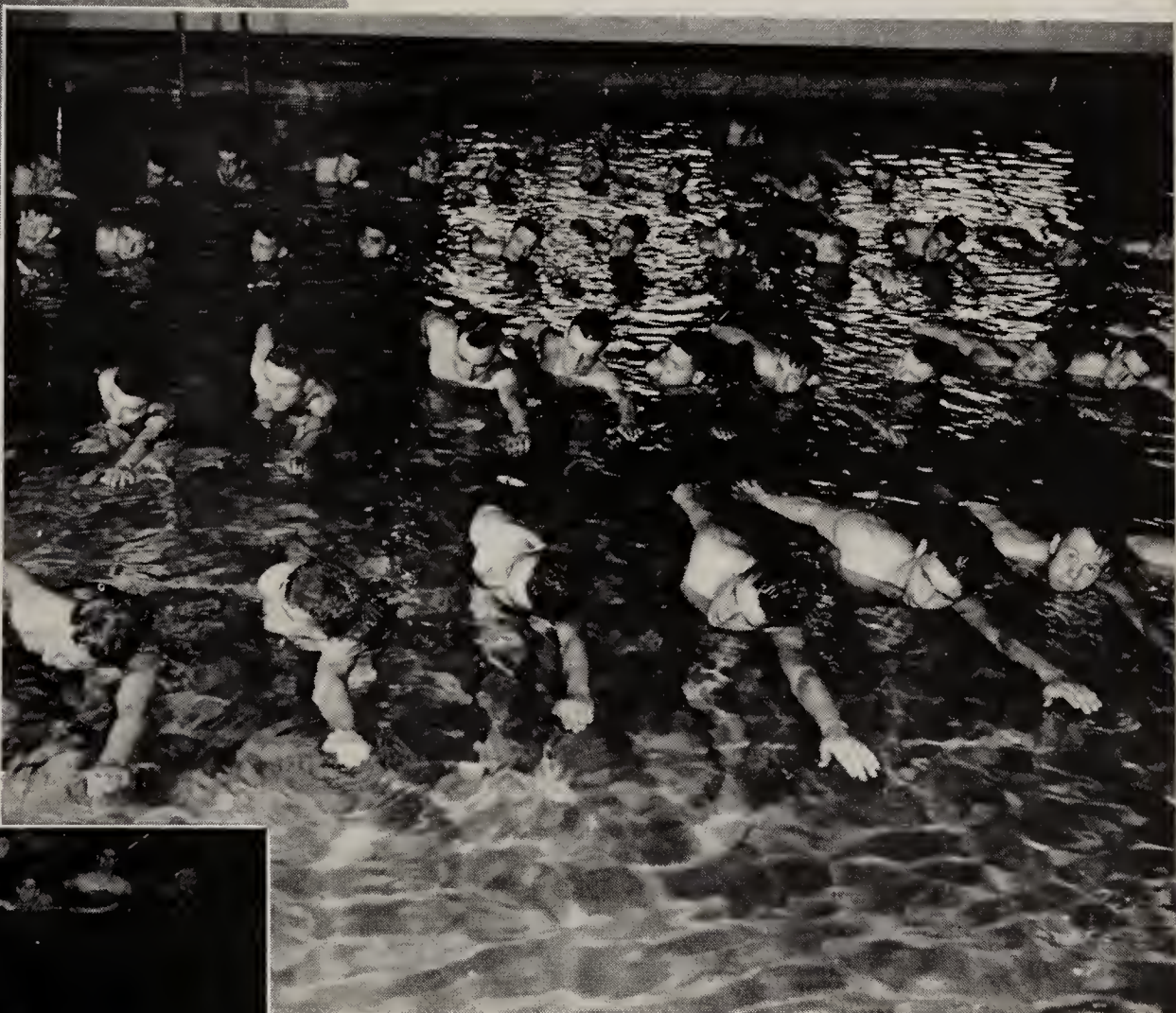


All Navy men must be able to swim.
Each recruit must demonstrate his profi-
ciency in the water.

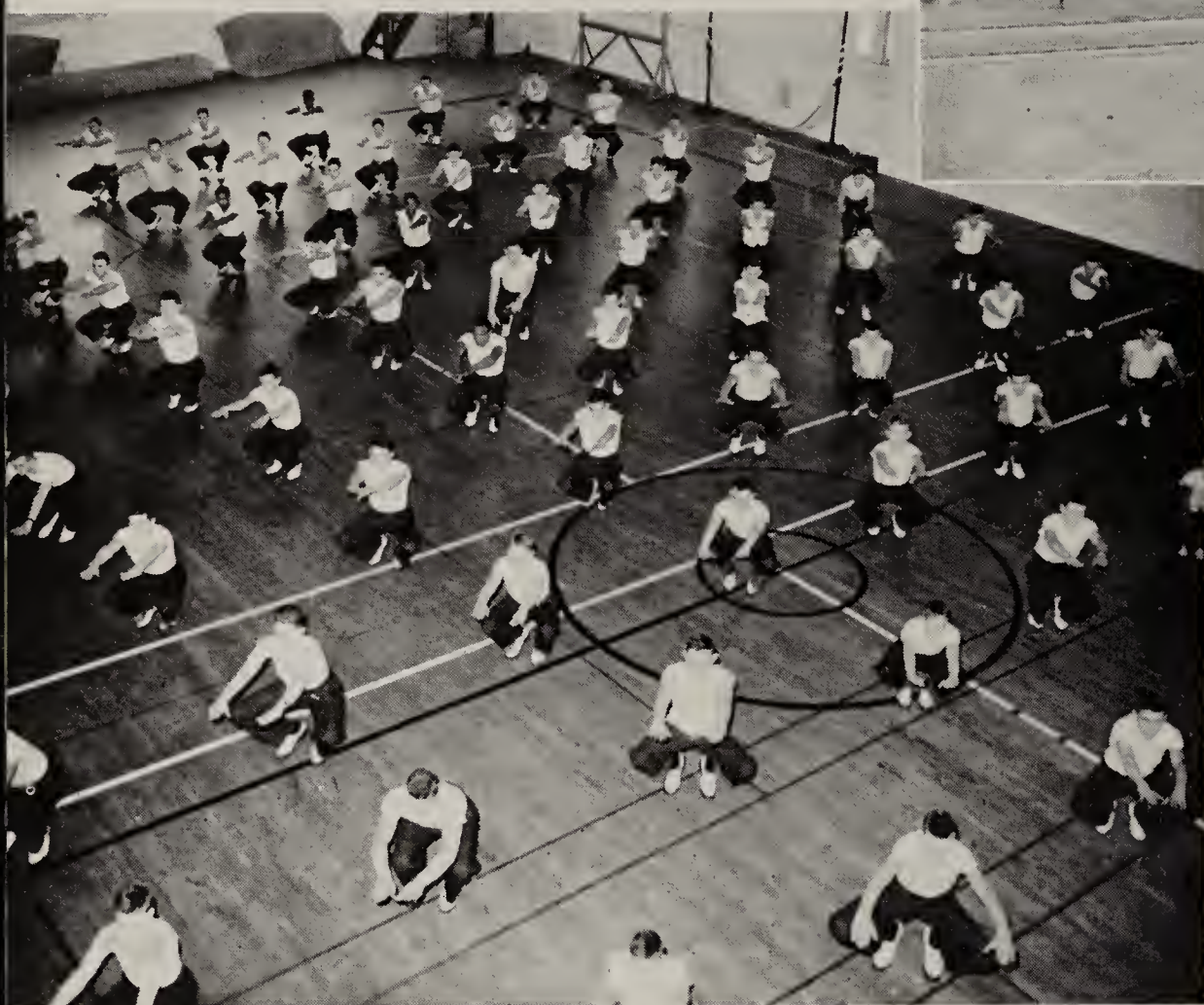




Non-qualified swimmers are given instruction to improve their swimming ability.



Recruits go through many hours of physical training to build them up for a vigorous Navy life. In winter, PT classes are held in the huge drill halls.



Coordination and physical conditioning are important in the training of a Bluejacket.



Despite the high degree of specialization in the modern Navy, every Bluejacket must still have a basic knowledge of seamanship.



An instructor uses a model to describe the different structures on a ship.



In marlinspike seamanship classes recruits learn to tie knots.



Feeding the large numbers of men taking training at Great Lakes and keeping the training camps in good condition involves a lot of work. In the Navy such jobs as kitchen police are done on a full-time rather than part-time basis so that they will

not interfere with the recruits' regular activities. Each company's training schedule is stopped for one week as the company takes over the routine work of its regiment. This is known as "Service Week," and is the week when most recruits work the hardest.



Mess-cooks

are the Navy equivalent of waiters.



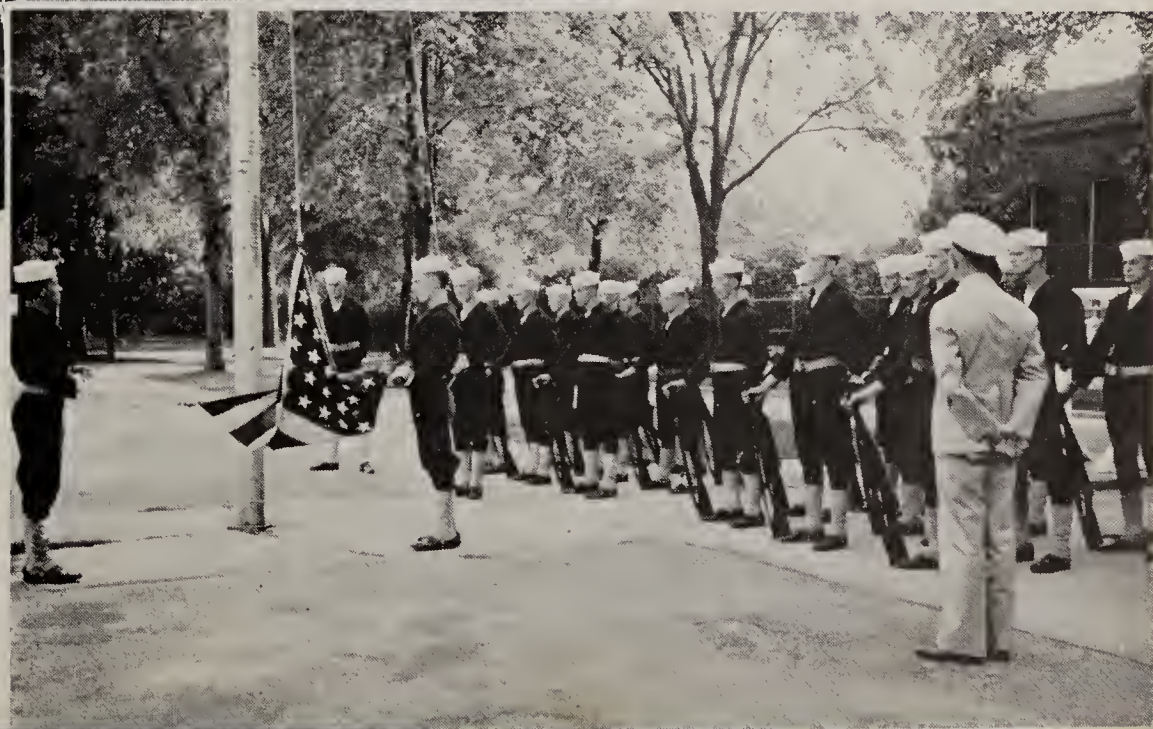
Standing

a regimental watch.



It takes a lot of supplies to keep Great Lakes going.

A company on service week observes colors in Camp Barry.



During the summer months each company goes to the Center's boat basin for boat drill in cutters. For many recruits this is the first experience in pulling an oar. Although no excursion trips, these boating sessions are among the most popular phases of training.



These boats are heavier than they look.

An instructor gives some preliminary instructions.



Recruits get final instructions and are supplied with life jackets.



Just like galley slaves.



It gets easier with practice.



During the war recruits at Great Lakes learned about gunnery from target fire with Navy guns set up on the shore of Lake Michigan. In peacetime, Bluejackets can get practical experience with guns after they get to sea, so in recruit training the underlying principles of ordnance and gunnery are stressed more than actual firing.



Ordnance and gunnery instruction gives recruits a fund of basic information. Here an instructor explains different types of ammunition.



Lectures explain the methods of operating shipboard guns.

After lectures by the instructors, the company gets some actual experience, using dummy ammunition, with guns and the loading machine.



Fledgling gunners get the "feel" of a 20 & 40 mm. gun.



Each recruit learns to fire a rifle and pistol. An M-1 rifle is issued to each man in the company for use in learning the firing positions. Actual fire in the rifle range buildings is done with .22 rifles and .45 pistols.



Lectures, movies, classroom demonstrations, and practice fire with unloaded small arms precede target fire on the rifle range.



All instruction in the use of rifles and pistols is given by Navy gunners mates.



Outdoors we get the "feel"
of the guns.



Firing is done from several
positions. The company is divided
into pairs; one man acts as coach
while the other shoots.



A day at the Fire Fighters Training Unit teaches recruits the methods used in extinguishing all types of fire that might be encountered aboard ships. With actual experience in battling these blazes, the recruit learns that fire at sea, although dangerous, can normally be brought under control by employing the proper fire fighting techniques.



An instructor demonstrates the handy-billy, a gasoline-powered pump used in fire-fighting.



Foul-weather clothing lends a professional appearance to recruit "smoke-eaters."



The rescue breathing apparatus makes breathing possible in smoke-filled compartments.



The Fire Fighters Training Unit is equipped to simulate many types of shipboard fires. Here recruits extinguish a fire in an oil tank.



"Foam," produced by mixing chemicals with water, is highly effective against some types of fires.



The spray from the special Navy nozzles protects the fire fighters while it puts out the fire.



Forming into squads, the trainees change positions after each fire so that each man has a chance to be nozzleman part of the time.



Burns are rare, but everyone is well coated with soot after a day of fire-fighting.

HERE AND THERE



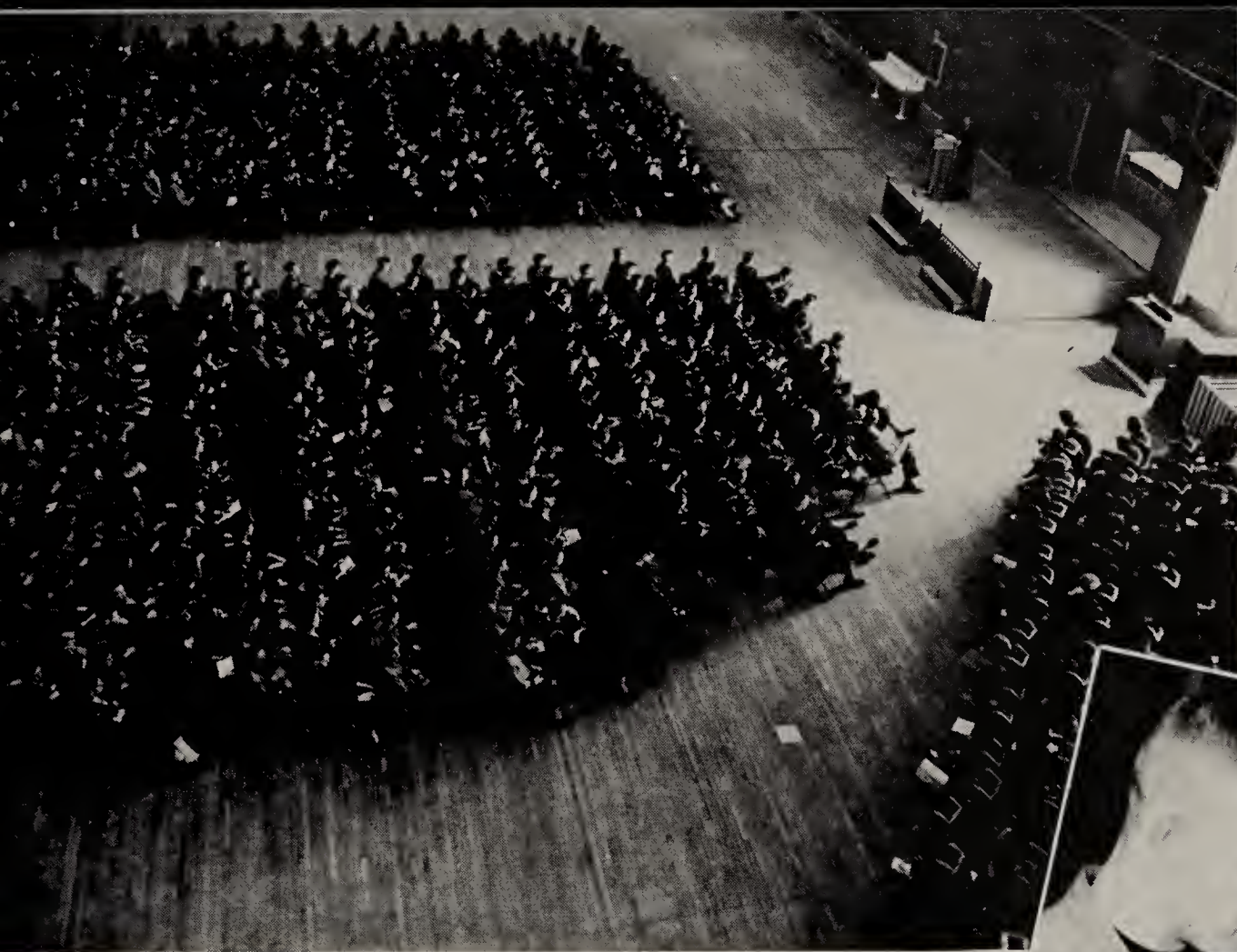
Navy men are encouraged to pursue the faith of their choice. A chaplain is always ready to talk things over with recruits, either individually or in a group.





Recruits meet the chaplains during their first week of training. Here Catholic, Protestant, and Jewish chaplains describe religious life in the Navy to recruits.





Drill halls become chapels when the church pennant is flying on Sunday morning.

A recruit choir sings during religious services.





The Recruit Training Command has extensive recreation facilities for making profitable use of leisure time. Recruits are encouraged to develop interests and hobbies with which they will be able to occupy their spare time in a worthwhile manner.

There's always a line at the Navy Exchange counter in the recreation building.

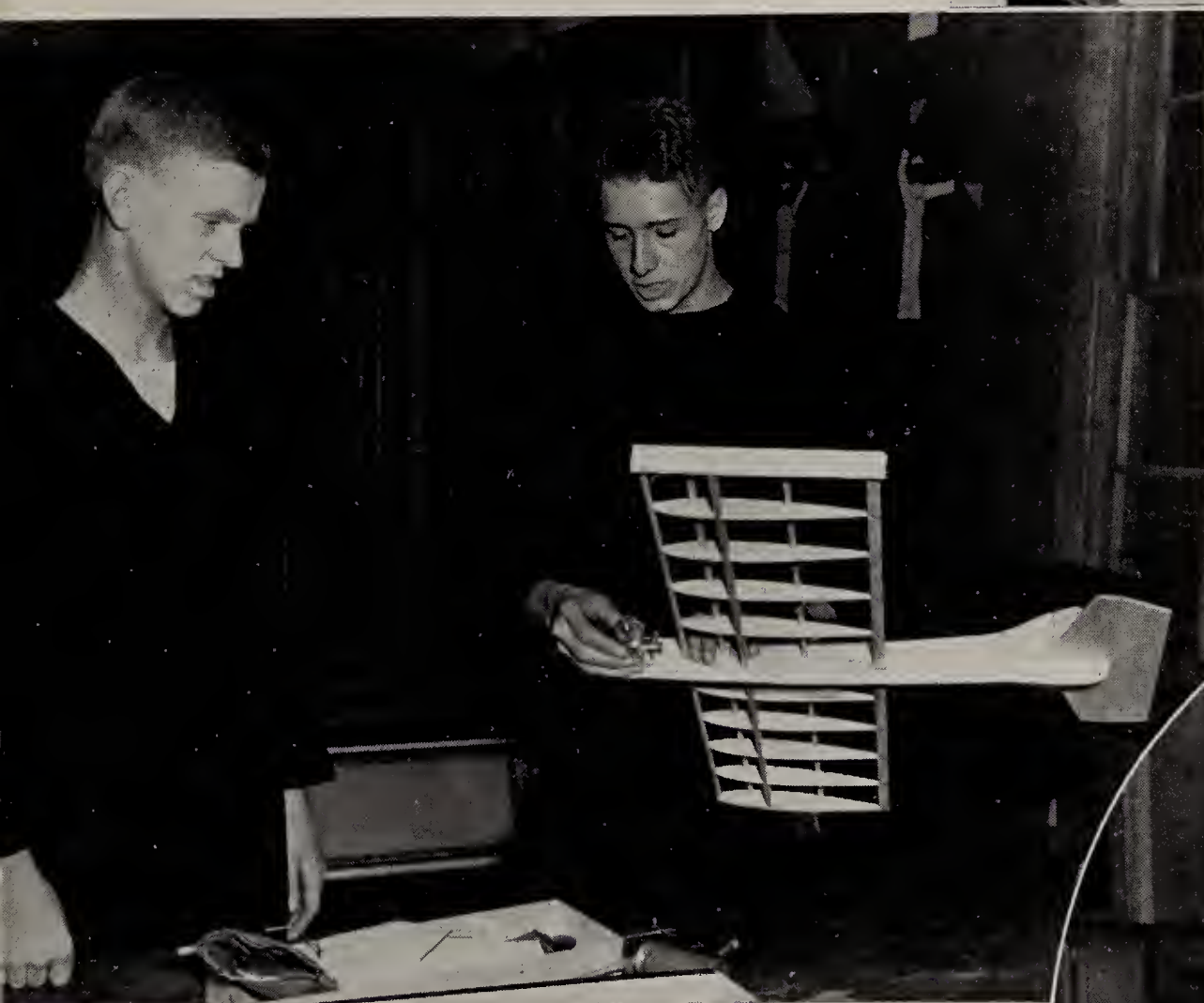
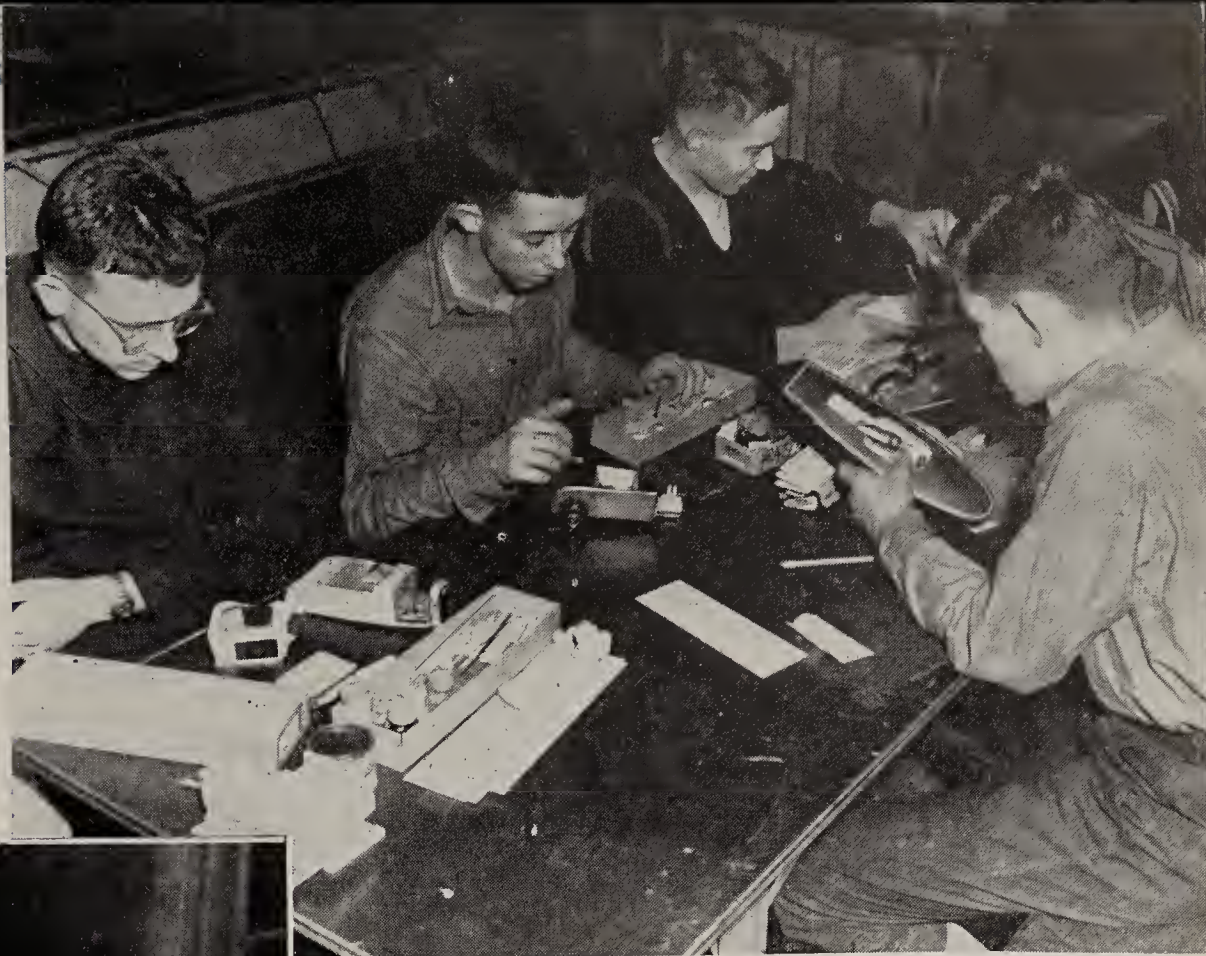


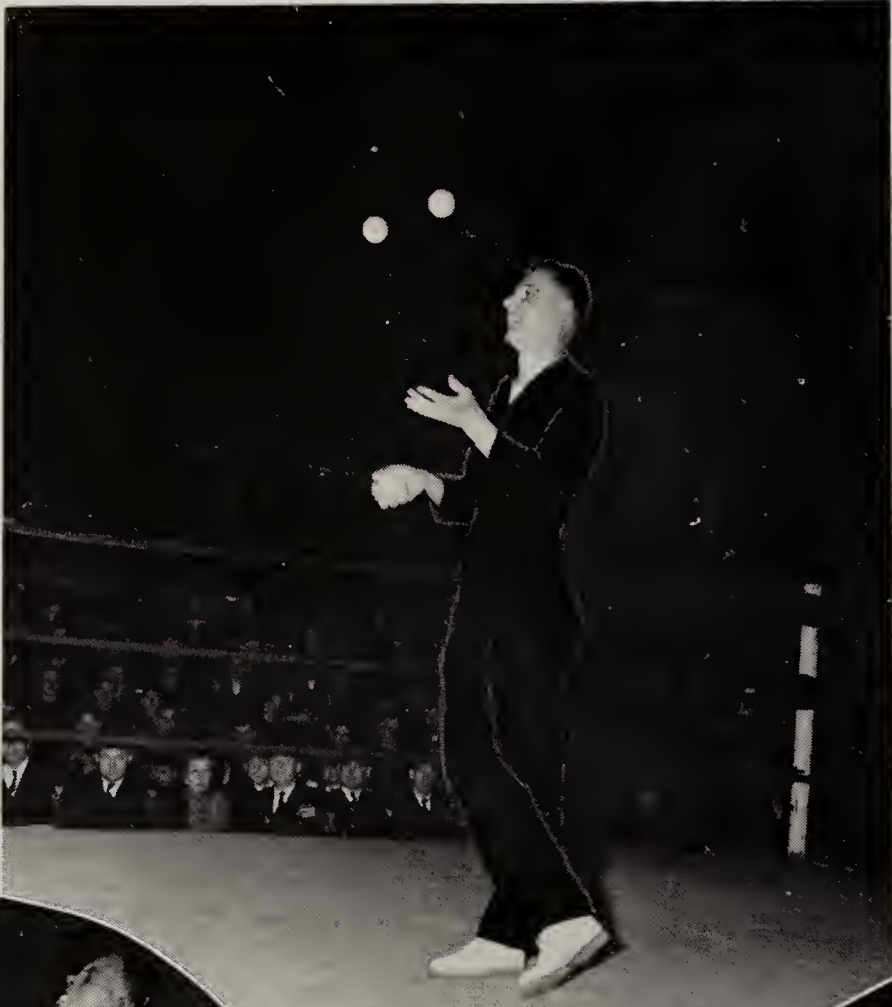
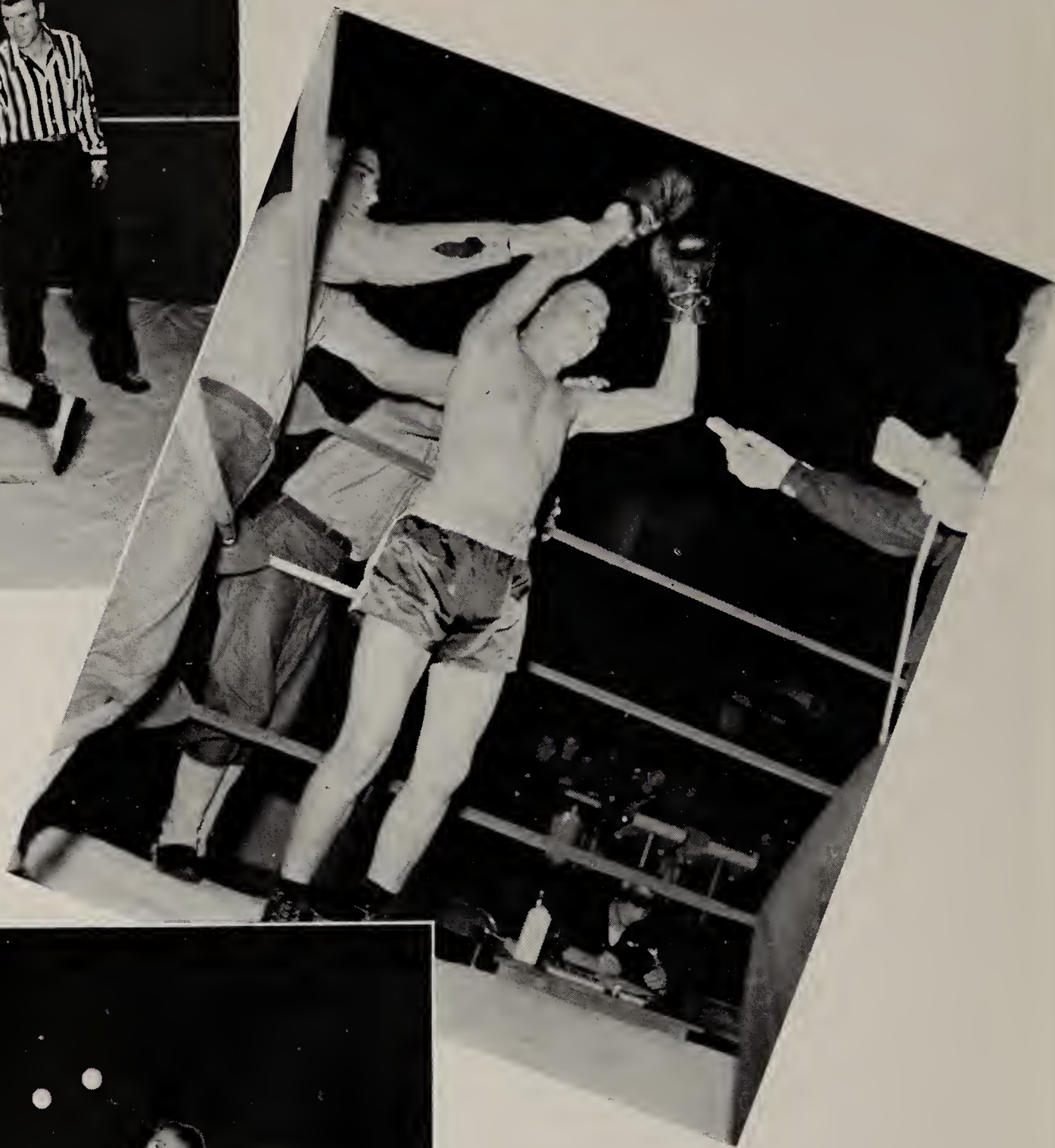
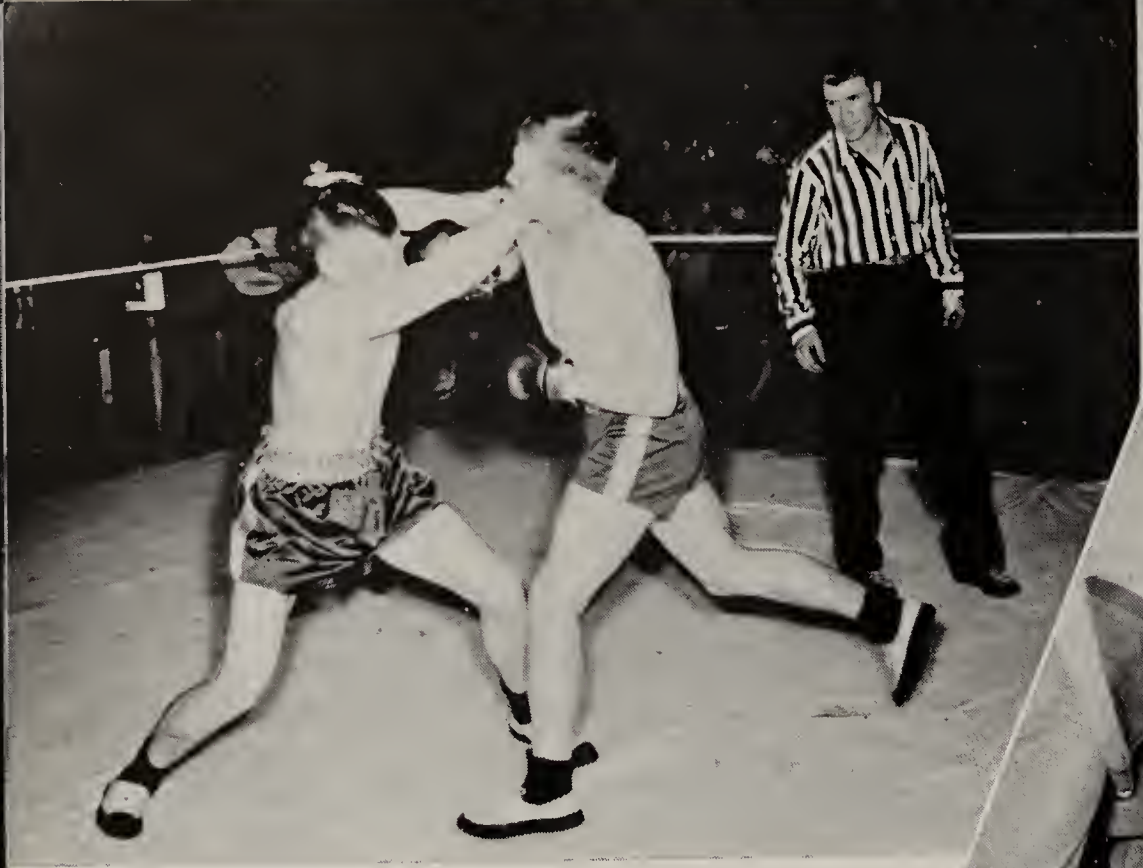
Ping pong addicts and pool sharks help keep the recreation buildings busy in the evenings.

The library has all the latest magazines as well as a large supply of books.



A popular spot during off-duty hours is the recruit hobby shop.





Smokers are held every week in one of the drill halls. Participation in these events gives the fighters' companies points in athletic flag competition.





Volleyball competition is rigorous.



A saxophone - player entertains his friends in the barracks.



After a strenuous day's training, these recruits still have enough energy to play softball.



Indoor sports take over in the winter. Here a company commander urges his team on in a tug-of-war.



The recruit dance band plays at a party.



Wave recruits are visitors at a recruit dance. Great Lakes is the home of the Navy's Wave recruit training program.



Party time in the Waukegan Elk's Service Center, which many recruits visit while on liberty.





Building 42 —
the Reception Center—is
where recruits meet visi-
tors from home.

Weekend visitors
to Great Lakes can count
on a cordial reception.





On special occasions recruits leave Great Lakes to march in parades.



The company's graduation review is held on the Saturday before the company completes its training schedule. This winter review is being held in a drill hall.



The color guard passes in review.



Flag bearers from graduating companies stand at parade rest during an outdoor review.



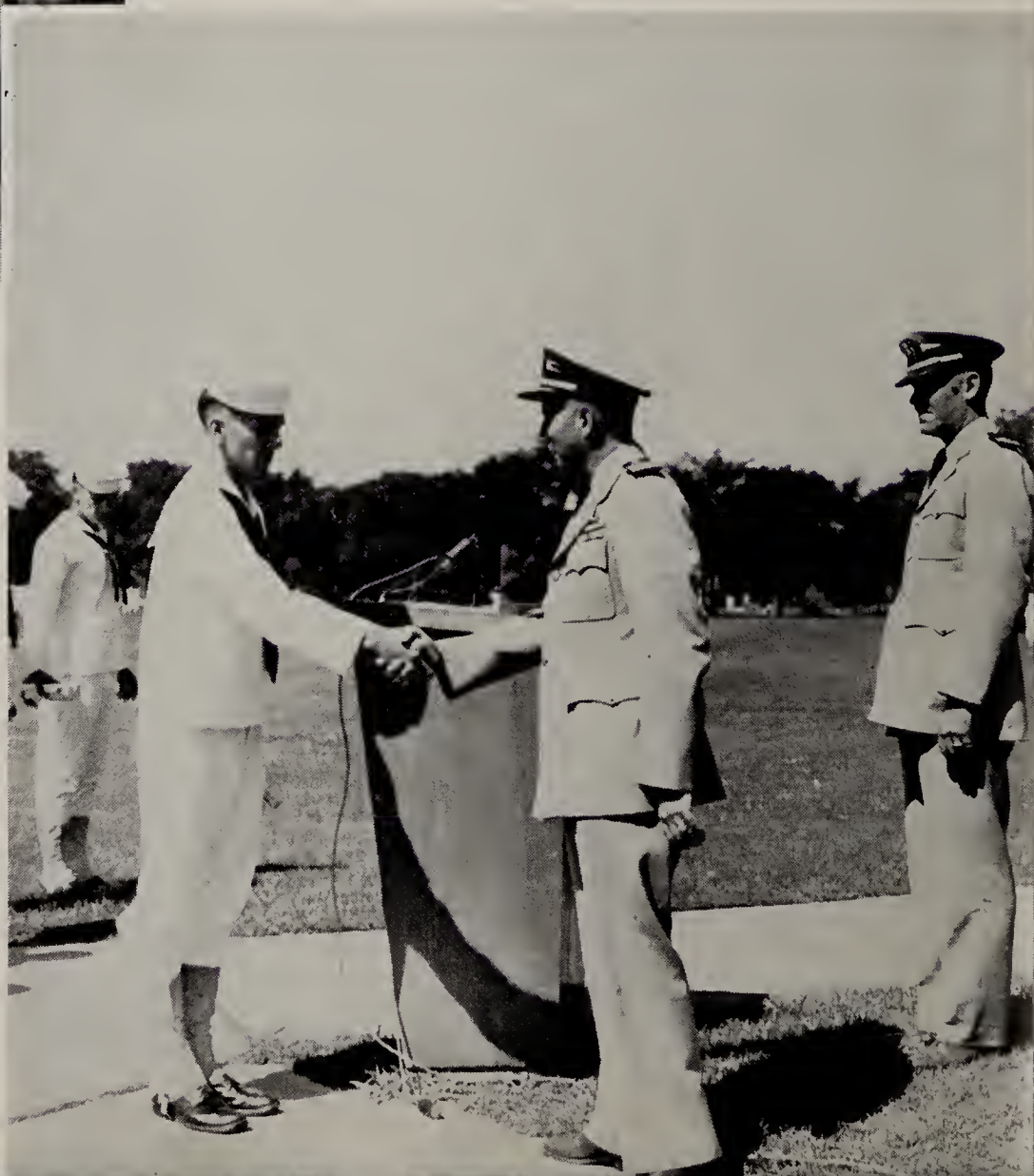


A graduating company passes before the reviewing stand during a review on Ross Field.



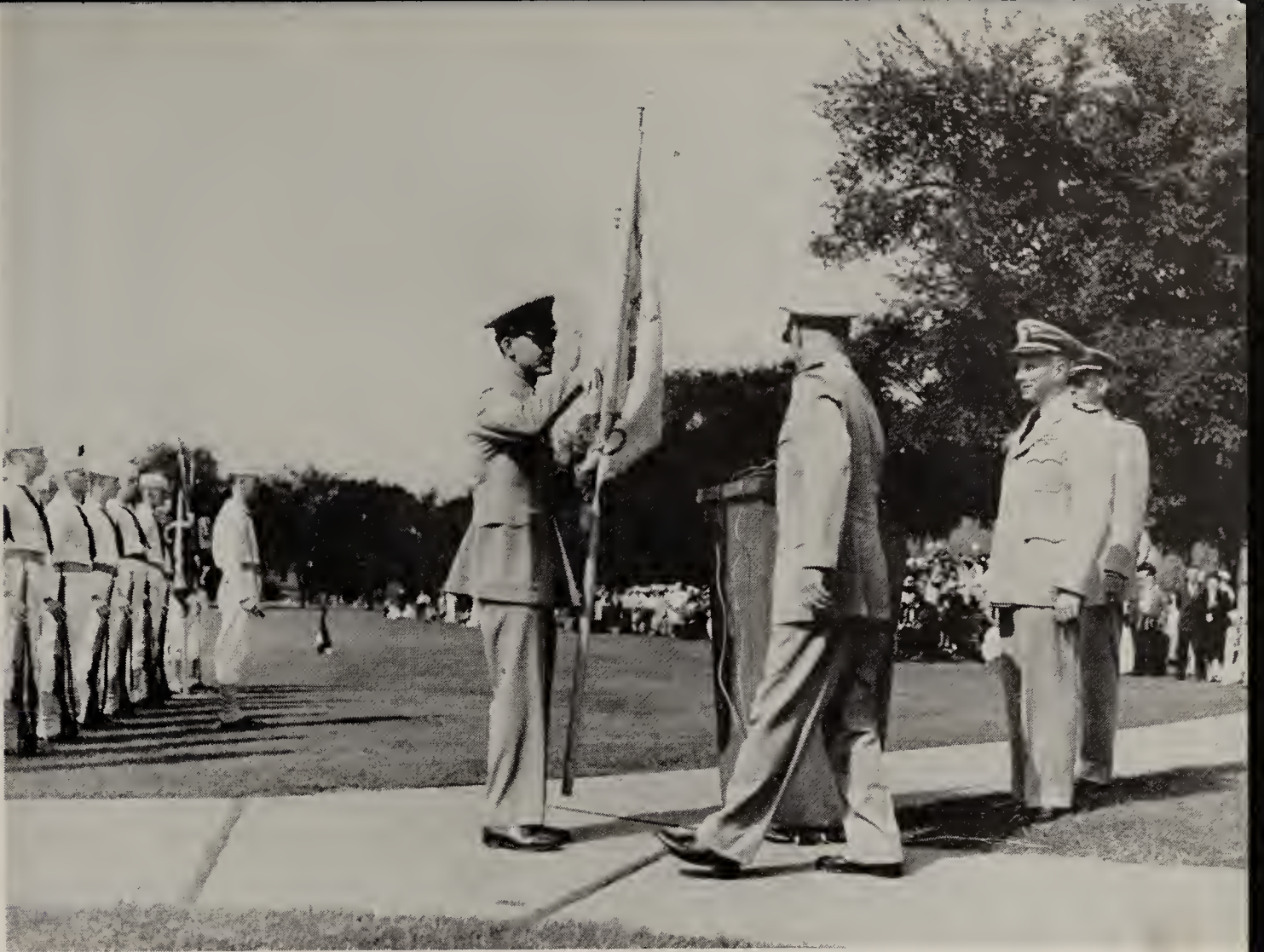
The Recruit Drill Team participates in all reviews.

Graduating honormen are awarded certificates by the Commanding Officer of the Recruit Training Command. Honormen are selected by their company commanders and their fellow recruits on the basis of "demonstrated loyalty, attention to duty, dependability, and aptitude for Naval life . . ."



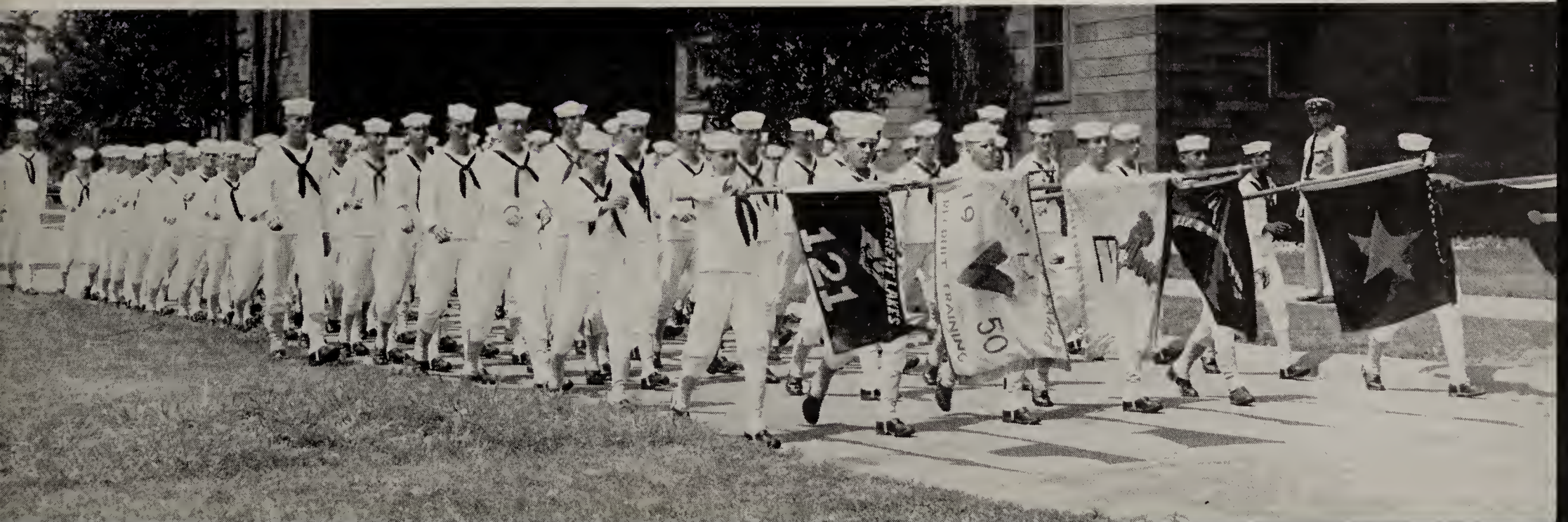


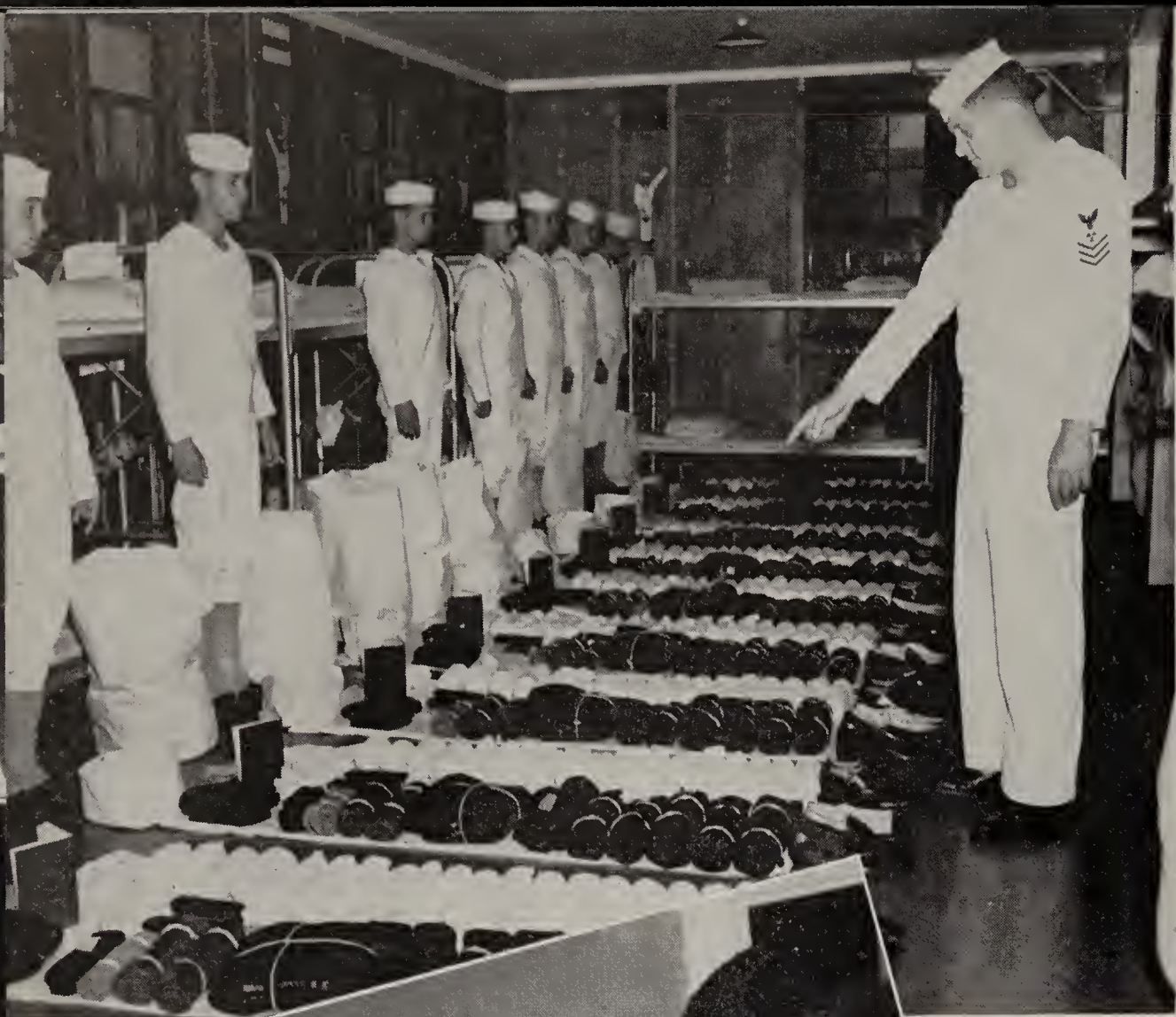
The company commander of a Hall of Fame company is congratulated by the Commanding Officer of the Recruit Training Command.



Awarded to the top graduating recruit is the American Spirit Honor Medal, presented by the Citizens' Committee for the Army, Navy and Air Force, Inc. The award is made in recognition of outstanding qualities of leadership best expressing the American spirit—honor, initiative, loyalty and high example to comrades in arms.

A Hall of Fame company marches on the drill field. To win the Hall of Fame flag, the company had to earn a total of five rooster flags for general superiority in all phases of competition.





Final seabag inspection; recruits must have all their clothing properly stowed before departing.



By now they have almost as much hair as they did before the Receiving Unit barbers scalped them.



Company of recruits marching from camp to mainside with ditty bags in hand. CPO is with company.

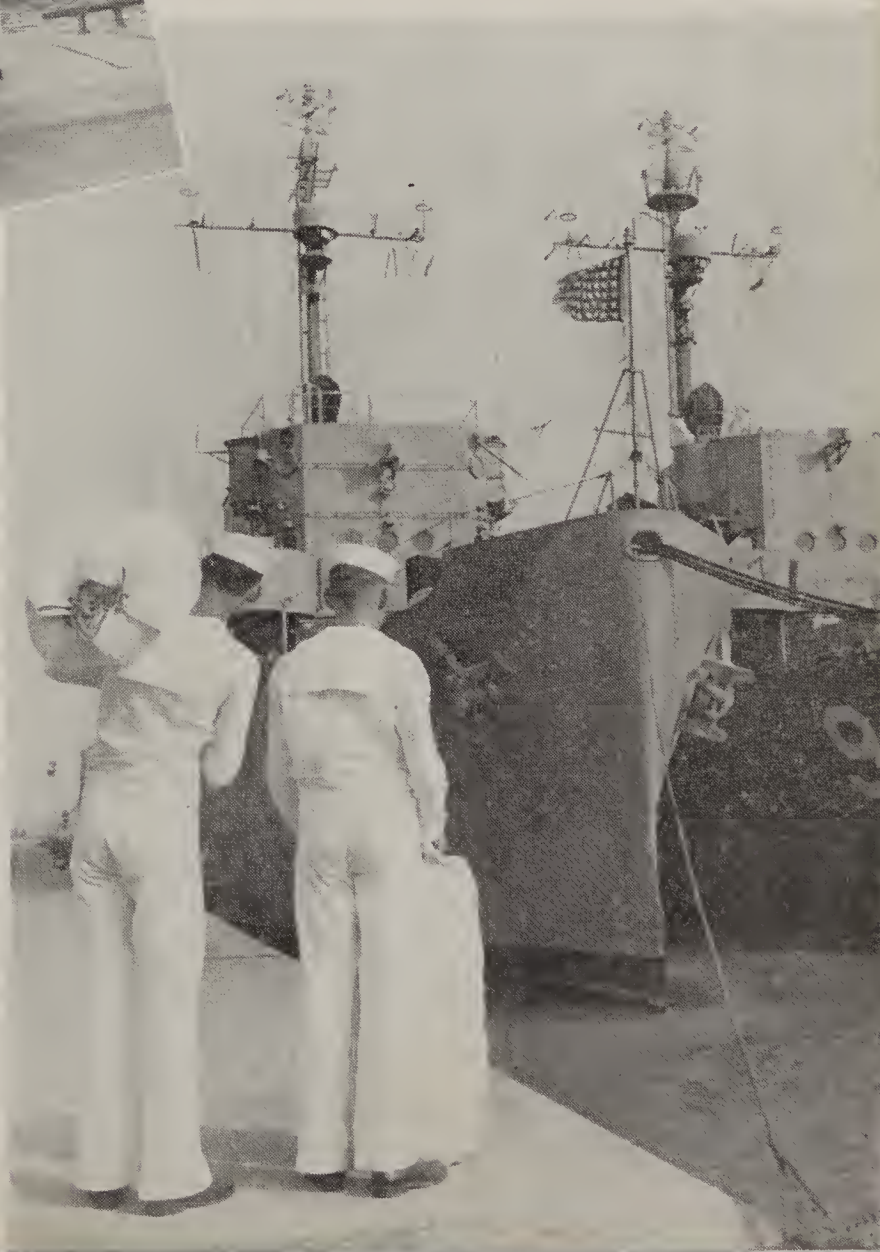


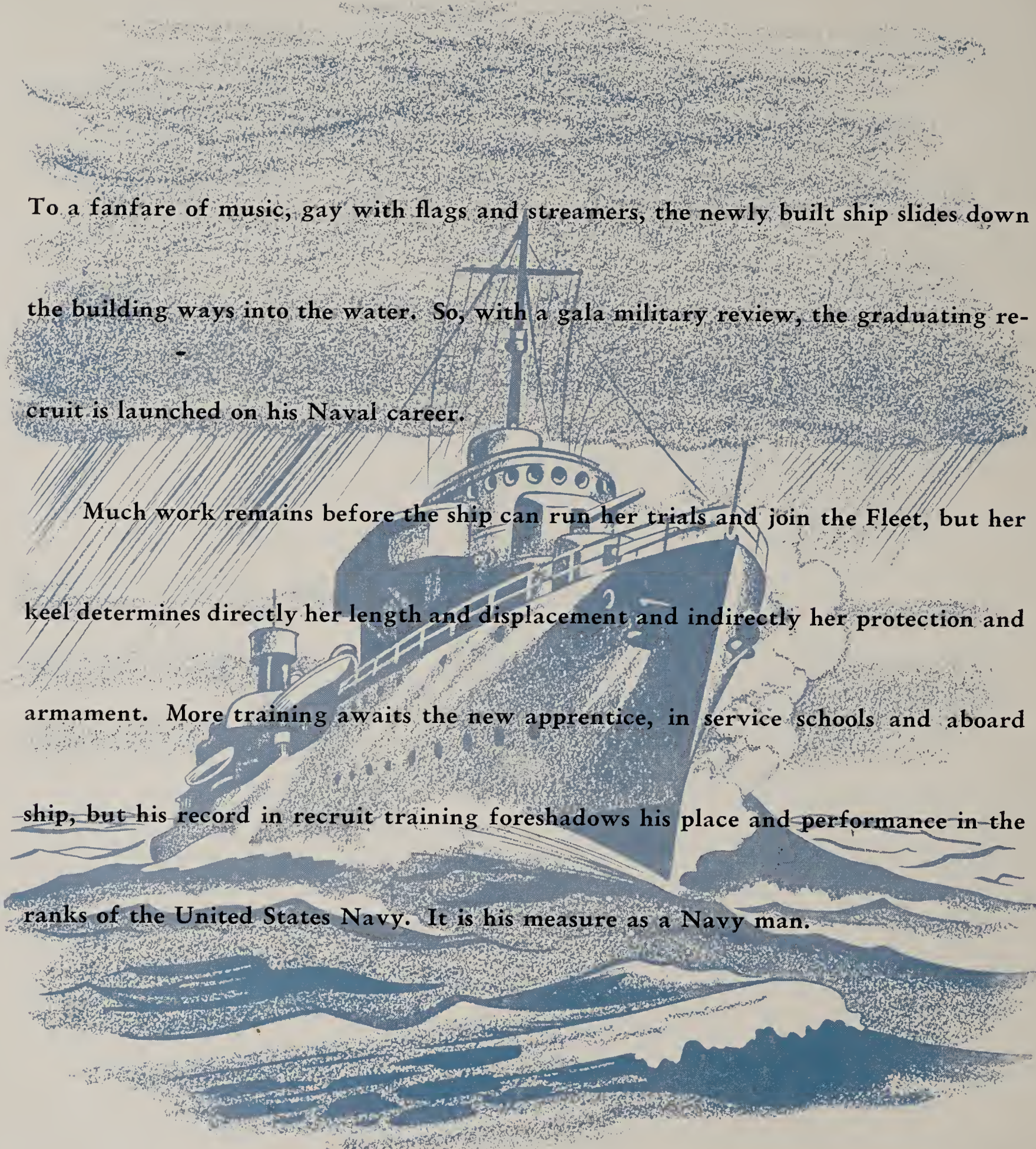


Recruits stop to look at ET school.



Their training completed, the company marches to the Outgoing Unit from which they will be assigned to a ship or to one of the Navy's service schools.





To a fanfare of music, gay with flags and streamers, the newly built ship slides down the building ways into the water. So, with a gala military review, the graduating recruit is launched on his Naval career.

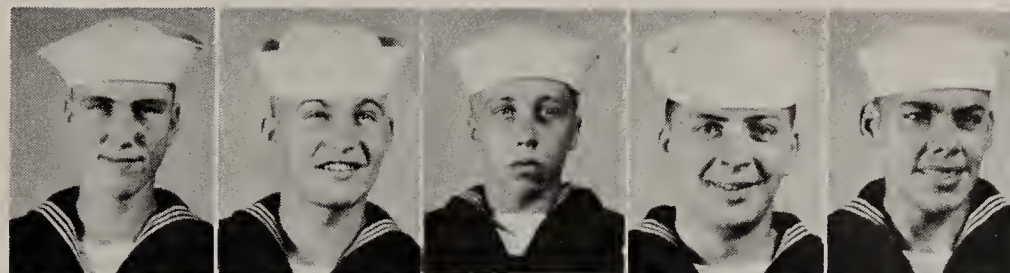
Much work remains before the ship can run her trials and join the Fleet, but her keel determines directly her length and displacement and indirectly her protection and armament. More training awaits the new apprentice, in service schools and aboard ship, but his record in recruit training foreshadows his place and performance in the ranks of the United States Navy. It is his measure as a Navy man.

COMPANY 264

H. M. SPALDING, QMI

Company Commander

D. J. Steere, William G. Adams, Guy C. Amey, John M. Anderson, Jr., John A. Anslono.



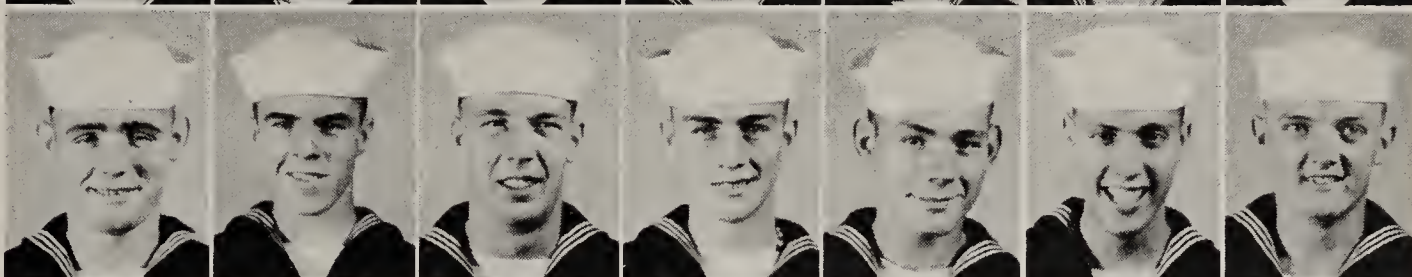
Charles E. Baldrige, Carl B. Barlow, Burrey Barger, F. H. Barkhurst, G. D. Bingham, Jr., Harry W. Bleh, Thomas K. Burton, Jr.



Morris J. Campbell, Larry J. Cantwell, Jesse V. Casey, Charles E. Casper, William A. Clegg, Benjamin A. Cox, F. D. Crawford.



Francis E. Crowley, J. M. Dalrymple, Jr., W. E. Dickman, Jr., James T. Dion, Irvin J. Doyle, Donald O. Ducharme, Robert W. Emory.



John S. Erholtz, Jr., James D. Fagan, Stephen J. Feeney, Florian F. Folger, Robert J. Fraser, Charles R. Garrison, James E. Garrison.



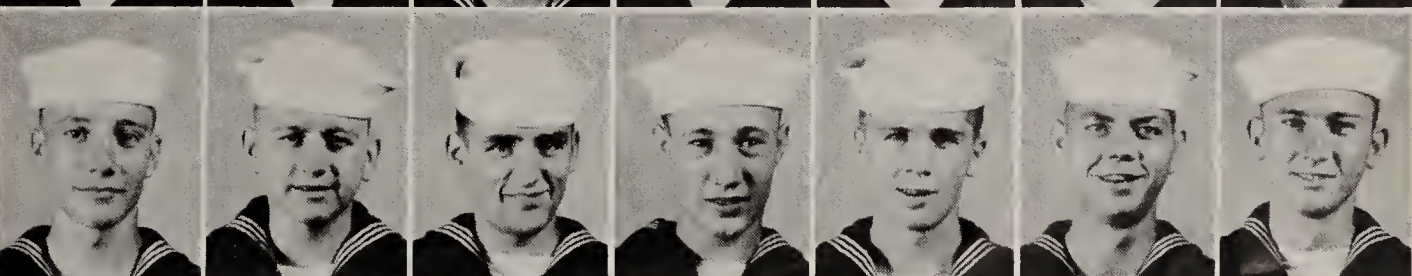
Charles J. George, Albert S. Godfrey, John J. Gratzer, Charles O. Green, Raymond J. Gross, Jr., James C. Groll, John S. Hall.



Warren D. Hall, Jerome R. Harff, Emmett S. Healy, Jr., John Hennerty, Jr., Ronald Hochloff, David E. Honey, Leo J. Jackson.



Richard E. James, Grant W. Johnson, James E. Jones, Donald D. Keller, Gregory Keenan, Robert V. Kerns, Kyle C. Kirkland.



Rene D. Labbe, Jr., Arsenio Laluz, Robert L. LaMay, Richard E. Layne, Charles G. Lines, Edwin B. Locke, Thomas J. Major.



COMPANY 264

(Continued)



Donald R. Manning, John D. McClellan, Thomas H. McGrath, John J. McNamara, Gerald D. Meyer, Louis N. Mihalos, Ronald C. Miller.



Bernard Molash, Thomas Monahan, Kenneth H. Morrison, William Neuhaus, Donald Nord, Richard E. O'Brien, David I. Pinkham.



Ernest D. Potvin, Martin J. Pranke, Robert H. Radke, Leonard Rapoza, William F. Ridge, Richard L. Robbins, Franz L. Rochmann.



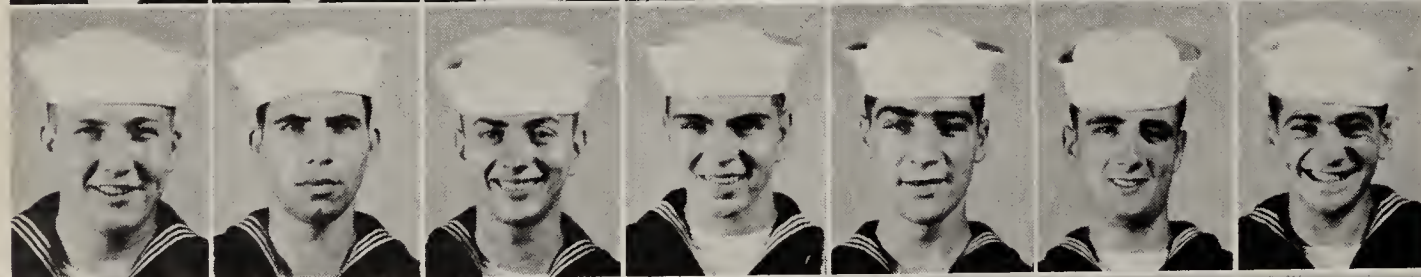
Jerome L. Seibold, Henry J. Sharkey, Forman J. Sickels, James M. Simpson, W. G. Skeffington, George S. Smiley, Eugene R. Smith.



Harry L. Snyder, Lawrence Sokoloff, John G. Stiene, Walter A. Summers, Henry C. Terry, Dominic J. Tesauro, Carl T. Tinsley.



Clarence Tuttle, Gerald J. Weinmann, Vincent J. Weiss, Hugh K. White, Thomas White, Robert H. Wilson, Herbert T. Willever.



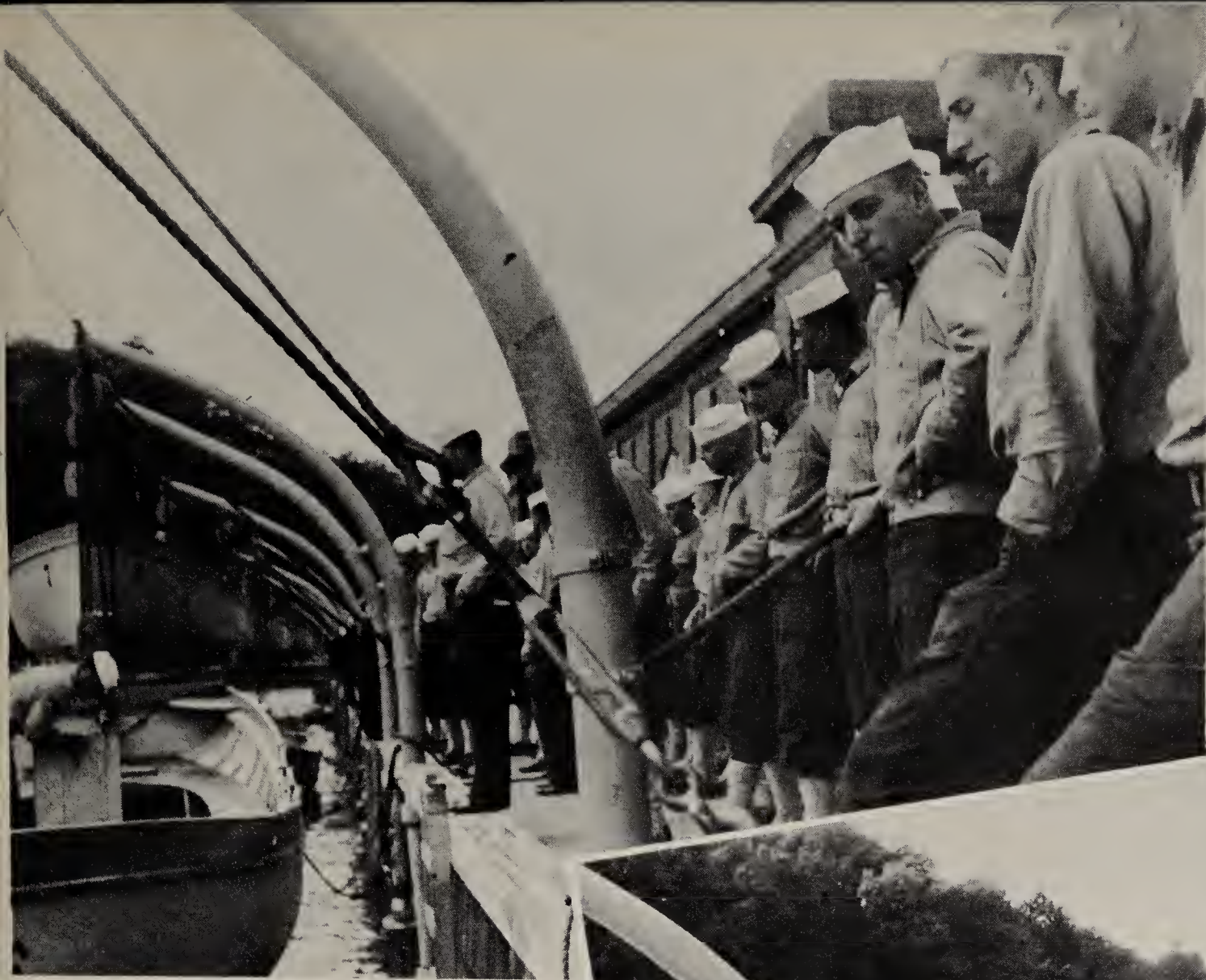
Thomas E. Wilson, Bernard W. Winans, Dominic J. Mauro, R. P. McNichol, Thomas C. Natoli, R. J. O'Donnell, Jr., J. S. Lentini.



G. W. Gongas.



A day at the Center's Boat Basin.





We practice the 5" .38 cal.
loading drill.



During Service Week we help
our mates in the galley.





We march, we march, we march!



On graduation day our company honor man receives his award.



Our instructor explains the correct use of the gas mask.



We learn to handle small arms.



Anchors Aweigh, my boys,

Anchors Aweigh.

Farewell to all these joys,

We sail at break of day.

To our last night on shore,

Drink to the foam.

Until we meet once more,

Here's wishing you a happy

voyage home.

